

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for representing style information in a markup language document, comprising:
 - determining properties corresponding to a style that relates to at least one section of an application document;
 - mapping the properties of the style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and
 - storing the properties of the style in the markup language document.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the style is one of a set including a paragraph style, a character style, a table style, and a list style.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein additional properties are associated with each of the set of styles such that the custom styles are generated by selected one or more of the additional properties.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the style is categorized according to one of a set including a version of a built-in style, a latent style, and a custom style.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein a latent style comprises a style that is a built-in style not yet instantiated by an application.
6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining properties corresponding to an additional style that relates to at least one section of the application document;
 - mapping the properties of the additional style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and
 - storing the properties of the additional style in the markup language document.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the properties of the style stored in the markup language document are understood by an application that understands the markup language when the style is not native to the application.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the markup language document is manipulated on a server to substantially reproduce the style of the application document notwithstanding the presence of an application that generated the markup language document.

9. A computer-readable medium for representing style information in a markup language document, comprising:

determining properties relating to a style used within a word-processing document;

determining whether the style is one of a set including a paragraph style, character style, a table style, and a list style;

writing the properties into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and

storing the properties in the markup language document such that the style is substantially maintained when the markup language document is parsed by an application.

10. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein the properties of the style stored in the markup language document are understood by the application that understands the markup language when the style is not native to the application.

11. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein the markup language document is manipulated on a server to substantially reproduce the style of the word-processing document notwithstanding the presence of an application that generated the markup language document.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, further comprising:

determining properties corresponding to an additional style that relates to at least one section of the application document;
mapping the properties of the additional style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and
storing the properties of the additional style in the markup language document.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein additional properties are associated with each of the set of styles such that the custom styles are generated by selected one or more of the additional properties.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein the style is categorized according to one of a set including a version of a built-in style, a latent style, and a custom style.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein a latent style comprises a style that is a built-in style not yet instantiated by an application.

16. A system for representing styles in a markup language document, comprising:

an application that is configured to:

determine properties relating to a style included in at least one section of an application document;

map the properties into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and

store the properties in the markup language document; and

a validation engine configured to validate the markup language document.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the style is categorized according to one of a set including a version of a built-in style, a latent style, and a custom style.

18. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:
determining properties corresponding to an additional style that relates to at least one section of the application document;
mapping the properties of the additional style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and
storing the properties of the additional style in the markup language document.

19. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:
determining properties corresponding to an additional style that relates to at least one section of the application document;
mapping the properties of the additional style into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value; and
storing the properties of the additional style in the markup language document.

20. The system of Claim 16, wherein the properties of the style stored in the markup language document are understood by an application that understands the markup language when the style is not native to the application.

21. The system of Claim 16, wherein the markup language document is manipulated on a server to substantially reproduce the style of the application document notwithstanding the presence of an application that generated the markup language document.

22. The system of Claim 16, further comprising determining whether the style is one of a set including a paragraph style, a character style, a table style, and a list style.

23. The system of Claim 16, wherein additional properties are associated with each of the set of styles such that the custom styles are generated by selected one or more of the additional properties.